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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 092303

72
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA:PCHABIB:JNP
APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB
S/S:MR. ORTIZ
---------- 126271
O 222129Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 092303

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, VS

SUBJECT: E AND E

REF: SAIGON 5427

1. THE ONLY ADVICE GIVEN TO AUSTRALIANS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT EVACUATION, OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, WAS IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SHAW AND HABIB. SHAW ASKED WHAT AUSTRALIANS SHOULD DO ABOUT EVACUATING THEIR PERSONNEL IN VIET-NAM. IN RESPONSE HE WAS TOLD THAT OUR ADVICE WOULD BE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT CLOSING DOWN THEIR OPERATION.

2. LATER SHAW CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD FIRST DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN ENTIRELY IN TWO STAGES, BUT WAS NOW PREPARED TO POSTPONE THE DECISION AND WOULD PROCEED TO REDUCE THE STAFF TO THE NECESSARY MINIMUM. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: RowellE0
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